

2009 H1N1 FLU

Vaccination Facts for Veterans

NOVEMBER 2009

FACT #1

As vaccine supplies become more available, all Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be able to get the 2009 H1N1 flu shot.

The shot is free. Getting the H1N1 flu shot will help you protect yourself, your family, and your community from H1N1 flu.

FACT #2

Over time, there will be enough H1N1 flu shots. At present, there is a limited supply. The U.S. Government, including VA, has a system to give the early H1N1 flu shots to those at highest risk of flu, then provide flu shots to those with medium, then low risk.



FACT #3

Everyone will fall into one of three target groups. Vaccine will be given to those at high risk first, then medium, and then lower risk. Your health care provider or local VA can help you learn what group you fit into. They may not know right away when they will be able to give H1N1 flu shots for all of the target groups. Supply of vaccine is hard to predict right now.

FACT #4

Over time, you will be able to get the 2009 H1N1 flu shot at VA if you are enrolled in VA health care. You may also choose to get the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine within your community. Ask your state or local health department (look in your phone book) or ask your own health care provider for details.

FACT #5:

When it is available to you, get the H1N1 flu shot. This will help stop the spread of this flu. Other important things to do include:

- Keeping hands clean
- Keeping hands away from mouth, nose, and eyes
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Staying home when sick

SafeGuarding and Serving

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U.S. GOVERNMENT TARGET GROUPS 2009 H1N1 FLU VACCINE

HIGH RISK = This group includes:

- Pregnant women
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact
- Children 6 months through 4 years of age
- Children 5 through 18 years of age with chronic health conditions. *Examples (not a complete list or in any order): asthma, lung disease, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, those getting treatment for cancer, those taking drugs that affect the immune system*

MEDIUM RISK = This group includes:

- People 6 months to 24 years old **not** in the **high** risk group
- Adults 25 through 64 years of age with chronic health conditions. *Examples (not a complete list or in any order): asthma, lung disease, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, HIV/AIDS, those getting treatment for cancer, those taking drugs that affect the immune system,*
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel who are **not** in the **high** risk group

LOW RISK = This group includes:

- Adults 25 through 64 years of age who are **not** in the **high** or **medium** risk groups
- Adults 65 years of age and older who are **not** in any of the **high** or **medium** risk groups



Ask your health care provider
or VA facility about getting
your H1N1 flu shot.

To learn more about 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/public/vaccination_qa_pub.htm

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